

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 were pending in the application. Claims 3-6 were withdrawn. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-6 remain pending and are submitted for reconsideration.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,086,559 (“Akatsuchi”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,191,702 (“Goedecke”). The rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons.

Amended claim 1 calls for a machine for placing components on a circuit board that comprises, among other things, a transport device, at least one feeder area, at least one Y-slide that is independently drivable in the X-direction, and “at least two placement heads connected to said Y-Slide so as to be independently drivable with respect to each other along the Y-slide in the Y-direction and to move together with the Y-slide when the Y-slide is driven in the X-direction.” Akatsuchi and Goedecke, taken together or separately, fail to teach or suggest such a machine.

Akatsuchi, as admitted by the Examiner, fails to teach or suggest a machine for placing components on a circuit board that comprises a Y-slide with at least two placement heads. *See* Office Action at p. 3. The Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to modify the machine of Akatsuchi to include two independently drivable placement heads on the Y-slide as taught by Goedecke.

As explained below, this rejection is based on a misunderstanding of the teachings of Goedecke. According to the Examiner, Goedecke discloses “that it is conventional to have a Y-slide ... with a plurality of placement heads ... that are independently drivable in a Y-direction.” Final Office Action at p. 3. On the contrary, Goedecke merely discloses two Y slides (25, 26) that each have placement heads (36a, 37a, 36b, 37b) that are fixed in place on the Y-slides. *See* Goedecke at Fig. 1. Thus, Goedecke fails to teach or suggest a Y-slide with at least two placement heads that are independently drivable with respect to each other along the Y-slide in the Y-direction. Thus, even if Akatsuchi is modified to include two placement heads as taught by Goedecke, the two placement heads would not be independently drivable

with respect to each other along the Y-slide in the Y-direction. Rather, the two placement heads would have a fixed position with respect to each other, as taught by Goedecke. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection

Furthermore, the Examiner contends that the clause from lines 11-14 of claim 1 (prior to the present amendment) does not further limit the structure of the claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 as appropriate.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable subject matter set forth in this dependent claim.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.


The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extension fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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